

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed December 1, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-19 are canceled. Claim 68 is currently amended. Claims 20-71 are pending in this application, with claims 20, 57, and 68 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed December 1, 2003, claims 20-67 were found to be allowable.

Claims 68-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite because the Examiner states that the phrase "each of said openings comprises a periphery defined entirely by said nozzle plate" is vague and indefinite.

As discussed during a conversation between Examiner Pianalto and Applicant's undersigned representative on December 29, 2003, the openings in the nozzle plate are the nozzles which direct the treating agent onto the moving surface. Accordingly, we have amended independent claim 68 to clarify that the openings in the nozzle plate direct the treating agent onto the moving surface. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 68 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Dependent claims 69-71 are not specifically rejected and are deemed to be rejected as being dependent on independent claim 68. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 69-71 are allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claim 68.

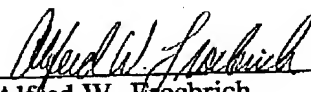
The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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